The genus of trees and shrubs known by the name of *Laurus* comprises many of the most useful as well as celebrated products of the vegetable world. The Bay tree or Laurel of the ancients, the Cinnamon tree, Cassia tree, Camphor tree, and Avocado pear, are either of them sufficient to give notoriety to the genus to which they belong. This genus has *a calyx of from four to six divisions; nectary of three bisetose glands, or wanting; stamens variable in number; fruit a drupe; flowers often polygamous.* The species *Sassafras* is *polygamous, with leaves entire and lobed.*

The Laurels constitute one of the few genera assigned by Linnæus to his class *Enneandria*, to the first order of which they belong. Jussieu has placed them with his *Lauri*, to which they give name. The propriety with which they have been associated with the Linnæan natural order *Oleraceæ* is of a very questionable nature.

The Sassafras tree, of the United State, arrives, in favourable situations, to a tall stature and large circumference. In the Northern States, it is of smaller size, yet trees are sometimes met with about Boston which attain to nearly the average height of the woods around them, and have trunks a foot in thickness. The bark of the